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DOCUMENT SERIES

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS OF LEBANON (UNUL)

on the Democratisation and Reform of Education.

THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY, SYNDICATE OF UNUL, ITS SOCIAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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NATIONAL UNION OF THE STUDENTS OF LEBANON (UNUL)
ON THE DEMOCRATISATION AND REFORM OF EDUCATION

THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY, SYNDICATION OF UNUL, ITS SOCIAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Published by the International Union of Students

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social Affairs

The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering the social situation of the student in Lebanon and the difficulties he experiences resulting therefrom,

Considering the necessity for securing an adequate living standard for the students,

Recommends:

- that efforts be made to hasten the building of State University Town and to provide university restaurants where the price of food is reasonable;
- to make sure that card-bearing Union members be accorded special privileges in regard to transport, cinema and thatre tickets, access to beaches;
- to make sure that the student gets the benefit of social security when the latter is going to be applied;
- to endeavour to obtain health insurance for students.

ON THE DEMOCRATISATION AND REFORM OF EDUCATION

AND THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY

1 - The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering the importance of the theme: "The Democratisation of Education and the Lebanese University"

Decides to base itself on the study presented at the Congress in relation to "the necessity for and the importance of University Reform, the democratisation of education in the stage of economic and social development, and the role of the student in this sphere", on condition that the two terms: "cultural and civilising" be deleted and that, in delimiting the university, the words: "the national content" be added.

2 - The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering that the students are suffering as a result of the high registration fees charged by the Bar and the length of their period of practice,

Recommends that the Executive Bureau

- make efforts to reduce the registration fees payable to the Bar,
- make efforts to reduce the period of practice at the Bar to two years.

3 - The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering the country's need for specialised technicians in all fields,

Considering the large number of students going in for specialisation abroad,

Asks for the establishment of a bureau dependent up on the Secretariat of Cultural Affairs and which will be employed in the task of obtaining information on the universities abroad offering students the opportunity of pursuing specialised studies.

4 - The 8th Congress of UNUL

Wishing to co-operate on the development of the countryside and

Considering the medical requirements of the countryside and its under-development in the sphere of hygiene,

Decides:

- to support any project aimed at improving the level of sanitation in the countryside,
- to request the government to modify the administrative and technical points in its project relative to the sanitary development in the countryside in such a way that doctors' rights in Lebanon are no longer encroached upon.

5 - The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering the importance of the democratisation of education in Lebanon and

Being certain that the achievement of such an aim is in the first place for the State, even though the student assumes his role in improving the cultural level of the life in Lebanon

Decides:

1st Part - Achievements relative to the State

The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering the importance of the Lebanese University's

role in providing education within a sound national framework for all Lebanese,

Considering the close links that exist between university education and primary as well as secondary school education,

Stresses the importance of generalising official, free education at least on the primary school level, considering the same as the first stage towards the generalisation of its gratuitousness of education in general.

Decides to:

- consider the year 1964 as the year of the Lebanese University;
- make the Lebanese University a national university where Lebanese youth can acquire gratuitous education, solely on the basis of ability, in the various branches within a sound Lebanese framework;
- expand the Lebanese university by setting up new faculties of Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture... and assure the University its administrative and financial autonomy;
- obtain by cultural agreements and on a purely scientific basis the international recognition of diplomas accorded by the Lebanese University;
- increase the number of scholarships granted to students for specialisation abroad regardless of which university they belong to, and to allot a substantial part of these scholarships to those who wish to specialise in the scientific and the technical spheres;
- provide a specialised teaching staff in each faculty of the Lebanese University, securing the necessary salaries and appropiate scientific conditions;
- abolish registration fees at the Law Faculty - French Section - of the Lebanese University;
- establish a research centre attached to the Institute of Social Sciences (U.L.), which will undoubtedly play an important role in the planning of economic and social development, so that the students of this institute might put into practice the scientific theories they are studying;

- find openings for the students graduated from the institute of social sciences, considering them as scientific specialists;
- let representatives of the Lebanese students take part in the work of the managing committee of the U.L. faculties in order to allow sincere and effective exchanges between the students and the management;
- adhere to the principle of equality in distributing the U.L. scholarships, including the French Law Section.

Considering the high enrolment fees charged by the American University in Beirut, rising year by year which has reduced and will reduce the number of Lebanese students enrolled at the said University;

Considering the administrative policy pursued by the University, which allows access only to a given percentage of Lebanese students;

Considering that the American university of Beirut is situated within the Lebanese state;

Congress recommends that the competent authorities:

- put pressure on the university administration in order to obtain a reduction in the fees;
- endeavour to increase the number of Lebanese University students at that by availing the largest possible number of Lebanese of the opportunity to enrol at the university.

At the same time Congress proclaims its solidarity with the Lebanese students of the American university and requests the Executive Bureau to inform the public by publishing information on this subject in the press in general, and in the Revue of the Union in particular.

- Call on the Ministry of National Education to raise the grants of the students affected by the high fees, mainly the students of the Study Centre of Mathematics.
- Establish equivalence, on a purely scientific basis, of diplomas obtained by the students pursuing their studies abroad.

2nd Part - On Education and curricula in general

Decides to:

generalise official, free education as presented by the Executive Bureau in its study;

- request the government to unify the curricula of history and geography and generalise civic education at all educational institutions, in order to create a national spirit of understanding foreign to any confessional considerations;
- intensify supervision of printed matter and textbooks imported to Lebanon to make sure that they do not contain any foreign propaganda that interferes with the national sentiment;
- endeavour to reduce fees at schools and private universities; give the curricula a national orientation which is in conformity with democratic principles, provided that the Lebanese state assures the rights of the student on the planes of tuition and education at these schools;
- adjust the educational programmes taking into account the requirements of economic and social development in Lebanon;
- set up cultural youth centres, which may also comprise libraries, exhibition halls, sports grounds, etc.;
- request the responsible officials to transfer the "National Library" to a special building which meets the social and cultural requirements of Lebanon; also to increase and diversify the books and printed matter available there.

3rd Part - The Activities required of the Union

Decides to:

- promote the idea of a student press in Lebanon and issue a high-standard magazine dealing with student problems in general, one aim of which would be: defence of the democratisation of the press, as well as the strengthening of relations between our Union and other student unions;
- organise work camps for students with the help of the competent authorities, having a double aim in view: agricultural development and the safeguarding of sound hygienic conditions in the countryside;
- upon invitation by the Union and after consultation with the ministries of Education, Planning and Agriculture, to send

specialised student teams to the countryside for the purpose of imparting education to adults, provided that this work and these teams accord with the camps referred to in the preceding paragraph;

- the National Union of the Students of Lebanon invites the Ministry of National Education to set up, with the help of other specialised ministries, student teams for the building up of the Lebanese University in the course of next summer;
- students specialising in economic sciences to elaborate, with the help of the Union, a study on the projects of Lebanese planning with a view to the realisation of democracy, and to acquaint the Ministry of Planning with the students' opinion on the subject;
- Congress urgently requests the Executive Bureau to do its best to arouse, in the largest possible number of students, a feeling of concern for the economic and social development of their country, by means of lectures, study seminars and personal studies, and also by organising student teams, who could submit to the authorities responsible for Planning: concrete suggestions relating to important problems; the means to be utilised for increasing the production of, for instance, the agricultural and industrial sectors.

ON THE SYNDICAL ORGANISATION OF UNUL

The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering that the transition of the present organisation of the Union to a trade union organisation demands considerable preparation,

Believing in the importance of a basic trade union organisation within the National Union of Lebanese Students,

Assessing the difficulty of at present basing itself on a complete study in relation to such an organisation,

- decides to take charge of carrying through the two first stages of the project presented by the presidium in its report;
- recommends that the Executive Bureau promote the spirit necessary for such an achievement first by organising study seminars for the students of each faculty and then by organising a seminar from April 3rd-5th, 1964, in which delegates from all

faculties attached to the Union will take part;

- requests the Executive Bureau to ensure that this seminar assume the form of an extraordinary Congress, which would have the prerogative of deciding on the details of the application of student syndicalism approved by the congress, and to modify the Constitution established by the 7th Congress;
- calls for the effective co-operation of all Friendly Associations with the Executive Bureau on all the preparatory work indicated.

Requests:

- in case it is impossible for the Executive Bureau to apply the constitution approved by the 7th Congress or the one that would be recommended by the seminar,
- that the 9th Congress meet on the same bases as the 8th Congress.

Setting up of Sections abroad:

The 8th Congress of UNUL

Considering the necessity to establish close relations between the Union and the Lebanese students abroad,

Considering the first steps taken by the Executive Bureau in this respect,

Decides:

- to strive to set up Committees for the Lebanese students abroad;
- in order that any dualism in representation be prevented, that no Committee of Lebanese Students has the right to be considered as a branch of the Union if it is attached to another organisation.

The two first stages of the project presented by the presidium:

In regard to the trade union organisation:

The coming year must be devoted to syndicalism, and nothing but syndicalism.

The latter could be realised in three subsequent stages:

1. To obtain effective and material advantages for the bearers of the student trade union card.
2. To undertake a campaign of preparation for syndicalism by explaining the principles and advantages to the secondary school students and pupils as well as to public opinion.
3. To proceed to elections on the basis of proportionality while respecting the union principles.

1st stage:

First of all it is necessary to obtain, as far as possible, the special privileges accorded to bearers of student cards:

- from the airlines;
- from National Education, to which the management of museums and places of historic interest is attached, in order to obtain free access, for union card holders, to museums and historic monuments;
- from the Ministry of the Interior, to obtain exemption from travel taxes;
- from the association of owners of cinema halls;
- from the managers of beach authorities;
- from the managers of theatres;
- from certain hotels or state societies, so as to secure lodging at reduced prices for students, in the main for those who are married;
- from the owners of certain restaurants situated near the universities.

There may be some who will think that the obtaining of all these priviliges will be very difficult, but I am sure it will suffice to obtain just a few to make the cards attractive and desirable for students and thus to make sure that they offer more facilities.

To this I would add that agreement should be arrived at with all university councils and school managements whose students are affiliated to the Union, so that they collect the

Union tax along with the enrolment fee.

The payment of the tax alone does not, however, mean definite affiliation to the Union; this is a matter for the Executive Bureau to judge upon, and it is possible for the General Assembly to revise the Executive Bureau's decision.

2nd stage:

One cannot demand the application of syndicalism without explaining its principles at least to all affiliated university or secondary school students, no matter whether they are full members or observers.

In this connection I remember having been questioned by a student official recently about the signifiance of student syndicalism on which he had read an article in "Orient".

Therefore it is indispensable that the following measures be taken from the very beginning of the year:

1. To prepare lectures on syndicalism at the universities and institutions concerned, providing for at least one lecture at each university or school;
2. To organise discussions around the same subject, discussions to which the Union would invite all students and which, if possible, would also be attended by the professors;
3. To publish brochures and articles on the international syndical movement, as well as on the advantages of syndicalism; and to forward them to the branches of the Union both at home and abroad; to launch campaigns in the press, radio and television in order to convey information on the subject to the public.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The 8th Congress of UNUL

After discussing the foreign policy of the Union,

Noting the importance and efficacy of the decisions taken at the 7th Congress,

Declares:

- its support for the motions of the 7th Congress relating to foreign affairs;

- its approval of the international activity of the Union, its support for the stands taken by the Union as well as for its neutralist policy on both the Arab and the international level;
- welcomes our Union's affiliation to the IUS; requests that co-operation with this organisation be intensified and calls for a pursuit of co-operation with the ISC for the better and in the service of the cause of Lebanese students;

Decides:

- to pursue a policy of positive action towards the unification of the international student movement and for achieving a Confederation of the Arab Student Unions;
- to co-ordinate its stands with those of the neutralist student unions in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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